

Yorktown Is Preparing to Celebrate 129th Anniversary of Surrender of Lord Cornwallis to Gen. Washington



An Old Landmark—Home of the Yorktown Historical Society.



Surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown Oct. 19, 1781.



Cornwallis Resigning His Sword to Washington.



George Washington.



Lafayette.



Alexander Hamilton.

BY W. S. McKEAN.
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
Yorktown, Va., October 8.—As the day approaches for the celebration at Yorktown of the one hundred and twenty-ninth anniversary of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis to General Washington on October 19, 1781, which was the virtual closing of the War for American Independence from British rule, interest upon the part of the people throughout not only the State, but all over the country, is perceptibly on the increase, as is evidenced from the attention given the event by the press and historical societies generally, which is in a great degree due to the propaganda of the Yorktown Historical Society of the United States, organized at Yorktown on August 4 of last year, and then closely followed by the very interesting and creditable celebration under the auspices of the society of the anniversary on October 19, this being but the second time that this great historical event had been celebrated, the first being in 1881, when the cornerstone of the lofty and beautiful monument at Yorktown was

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 any doubtfull expressions
 in it, they are to be inter-
 preted according to the com-
 mon meaning & acceptation
 of the words.*

*Done at York in Virginia
 this 9th Day October 1781*

*Cornwallis
 Jno. Lyndon ds.*

laid, the monument, however, not being finished until 1884.

The anniversary celebration this year promises to be even more notable than that of last, and the indications now are that the attendance will be far in excess, although there were estimated to be upwards of 10,000 persons in Yorktown at the celebration of 1881.

An interesting and graphic account of the closing days of the struggle of the American Colonies against Great Britain here follows:

"The last year of the 'Revolution' or 'the War for Independence,' as it should more appropriately be called, was a trying one for General Washington and all his officers and men. The intense patriotism of the army was remarkable. The Continental Congress was strong in passing resolutions, but woefully weak in executing the spirit and intent of its declarations. The soldiers consequently suffered for clothing and other necessities. Hundreds of prisoners were held by the British, and much suffering was endured by them.

It was in New England where the war was started, but it was destined that the closing and final days should be in the South, upon soil dear to all—in the very locality made famous by Patrick Henry with his inspiring and patriotic declaration, 'Give me liberty or give me death.'

General Nathaniel Greene was then chief in command. His army was formed in two divisions. He took his stand at Cheraw, S. C., to the west of the Pedee River, with General Daniel Morgan, with but a thousand tried men, near the junction of the Pacolet and Broad Rivers, in the Western part of the State.

Lord Cornwallis, the British commander, who was about ready to return to North Carolina, suddenly reversed that he was between armies, although not large, yet thoroughly patriotic and determined. He ordered General Clinton, who possessed a

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which were never committed been confessed, infamous lies invented to satisfy the demand torturers."

And Prof. W. L. Burdick, in a recent number of the Yale Law Journal, describes some more of the features of the ordeal under investigation.

"A woman is arrested for a crime. At midnight the victim is brought to her cell, the dramatic horrors of the scene compel her to confess. Another is denied food, another is beaten—'blugged' is the word—is forced to speak. Other are starved, such as highly placed officials, placing them in solitary confinement or in bitterly cold cells, the weather aids, or in frigid superheated rooms at other times. Red pepper has been blown into their cells and other indignities numerous to mention. Perpetrated order that a 'confession' may be secured from the helpless wretches. But, after all, the worst that can be done is that they are illegal. The punishment of the United States is a cruel and unusual punishment, the underlying spirit of the law the right of the people to be innocent. General Washington, after an all day evidence of exile, has been given an opportunity to at the head of the court and before he is General O'Hara, after counsel. His testimony raising of his hat then he is suffering from the absence of mental insanity. The majority of the victims of the system are General O'Hara, ignorant citizens or youths the formal submission of the legal and the reception of who are afterward afraid of Cornwallis had been their persecutors.

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